



December 5, 2007

Dear Valued Customer:

I am writing to provide an update on the current supply situation for some of our vaccines. At the outset, let me again apologize for the inconvenience and disruption to your practice as a result of the recent supply situation with several of our vaccines. We fully acknowledge that the unavailability of some vaccines and prolonged shipment delays for others challenges your ability to provide the appropriate vaccines to your patients in a timely manner.

As communicated throughout 2007, Merck temporarily suspended its bulk varicella production. Merck has committed significant resources and has made noteworthy progress toward resolving this issue. We have implemented a number of process improvements, and we have resumed manufacturing of this bulk.

At this time I have some updated information regarding the availability of two of our products, ProQuad® [Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (Oka/Merck) Virus Vaccine Live] and VARIVAX® [Varicella Virus Vaccine Live (Oka/Merck)].

#### **Product Update:**

#### **VARIVAX**

Unfortunately, as previously communicated, we have experienced delays in shipping VARIVAX beginning in June 2007. In the mid-December 2007 time period, we expect to have cleared the backorders and increased the timeliness of shipping orders.

#### **ProQuad**

Earlier this year, Merck communicated that ProQuad would be unavailable for order for the remainder of 2007. Today, we are providing an update to help you plan your vaccine purchases for 2008. At the current time, we do not expect ProQuad to be available for shipment in 2008 and estimate that it will be back on the market in early 2009. We are committed to returning ProQuad to the market as soon as possible with adequate supply and we continue to evaluate opportunities for accelerating this timeline. We will continue to provide you with updates as information becomes available. In the meantime, we will continue to produce both VARIVAX and M-M-R® II [Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Virus Vaccine Live].

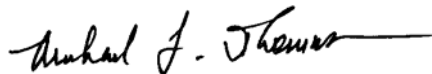
For the most up-to-date supply and availability information for VARIVAX, as well as PedvaxHIB® [Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Meningococcal Protein Conjugate)] and VAQTA® (Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated), please visit [MerckVaccines.com](http://MerckVaccines.com)®, call 1-877-VAX-MERCK (1-877-829-6272), or contact your Merck representative. As new supply information becomes available, you have our commitment that we will provide you with timely updates.

Before administering these Merck vaccines, please read the appropriate accompanying Prescribing Information. For additional copies of the Prescribing Information, call 1-800-672-6372, visit [MerckVaccines.com](http://MerckVaccines.com), or contact your Merck representative.

In closing, we have faced some challenging situations in 2007 but our commitment to resolve them as quickly as possible and provide you with the ability to order our full line of vaccines remains as strong as ever. We will continue our discussions with the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other key vaccine supply stakeholders to manage the supply of our vaccines.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work to return to the excellent customer service you expect from Merck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael F. Thomas" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael F Thomas

Sr. Vice President and General Manager, Merck Vaccines and Infectious Diseases

ProQuad<sup>®</sup> [Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (Oka/Merck) Virus Vaccine Live], VARIVAX<sup>®</sup> [Varicella Virus Vaccine Live (Oka/Merck)], M-M-R<sup>®</sup><sub>II</sub> [Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Virus Vaccine Live], PedvaxHIB<sup>®</sup> [Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Meningococcal Protein Conjugate)], VAQTA<sup>®</sup> (Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated), and MerckVaccines.com are registered trademarks of Merck & Co., Inc.